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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/598,528	05/21/2007	Klaus Hofmann	1299.1000	6952
35236	7590	08/04/2010		
THE CULBERTSON GROUP, P.C. 1114 LOST CREEK BLVD. SUITE 420 AUSTIN, TX 78746			EXAMINER	SY, MARIANO ONG
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3657		
NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
08/04/2010	ELECTRONIC			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/598,528	Applicant(s) HOFMANN, KLAUS
	Examiner MARIANO SY	Art Unit 3657

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2010.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 21-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 21,22,27 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 23-26,28 and 30-40 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 May 2010 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on May 24, 2010 has been received.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 21, 22, 27, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rastetter (US 3,995,534).

Rastetter disclosed, as shown in fig. 1-2, a safety device for the detachable clamping of elements comprising: a base body 7 adapted to be traversed or penetrated by a component 1 extending in an axial direction, the base body being mounted with respect to the component to facilitate relative movement between the base body and the component in the axial direction; the base body comprising at least one clamp element 11-13, the at least one clamp including at least one chamber 17 into which a medium can be admitted through a medium supply 21 to produce an elastic change of the respective chamber dimensions (via the movement of the actuating plunger 14) in a direction radial to the axial direction, the medium supply comprising a valve 37, which can be actuated via an actuation element 38 that is mounted (via pipe 21) on the base body so as to facilitate relative movement between the base body and the actuation

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element in the axial direction, such relative movement between the actuation element and the base body moving the valve between a closed condition in which medium is admitted into the at least one chamber and an open condition in which medium is released from the at least one chamber; wherein a section of the at least one chamber, or an element coupled to the at least one chamber, forms a respective force transmission element 28 to transmit a clamping force on the component; wherein when medium is admitted into the at least one chamber to produce an elastic change of its dimensions in a direction radial to the axial direction, the respective force transmission element clamps or releases the component in the direction radial to the axial direction; Wherein the actuation element is part of a weight body (the hardware axially on top of spring 38) that is guided in the axial direction.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 23-26, 28, and 30-40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed on May 24, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued in the Remarks the valve 37 of Rastetter (US 3,995,534) is not mounted on the body 7; nor does any relative movement between any part of the valve

37 and the body 7 results in an opening or closing of the valve 37. Note that the valve 37 can be readable as mounted to the body 7 via pipe 21. There is a relative movement between valve piston 39 and spring 38 of the valve 37 and the body 7 results in an opening or closing of the valve 37. Applicant's argument is more specific than the claim language.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARIANO SY whose telephone number is (571)272-7126. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Siconolfi, can be reached on 571-272-7124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/MS/

July 16, 2010

/Robert A. Siconolfi/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3657